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(71) Applicants (for all designated States except US):
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, represented by **THE SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** [US/US]; Office of Technology Transfer, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, MD 20852 (US).
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER [US/US]; 3901 Rainbow Boulevard, Kansas City, Kansas 66160-7702 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **SALOMON, David**.
BERMAN, Nancy. **STEPHENS, Edward**.

(74) Agent: **SCHODIN, David, J.**; Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900, 180 N. Stetson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601 (US).

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(54) Title: **USE OF CRIPTO-1 AS A BIOMARKER FOR NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASE AND METHOD OF INHIBITING PROGRESSION THEREOF**

(57) Abstract: A method of detecting a neurodegenerative disease in a mammal, which method comprises assaying the copy number of a Cripto-1 gene or the expression level of a Cripto-1 gene product in the central nervous system of the mammal, wherein an amplification of the Cripto-1 gene or an overexpression of the Cripto-1 gene product is indicative of a neurodegenerative disease in the mammal; a method of inhibiting progression of a neurodegenerative disease in a mammal, which method comprises administering to the mammal an agent that inhibits Cripto-1 in an amount effective to inhibit Cripto-1 in the central nervous system of the mammal, whereupon the progression of the neurodegenerative disease is inhibited; and an isolated or purified oligonucleotide consisting essentially of the sequence of AAGCTATGGACTGCAGGAAGATGG (SEQ ID NO: 3) or AGAAGGCAGATGCCACTAGC (SEQ ID NO: 4).



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